

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-10 AID-05 SS-15 L-03 H-02

HEW-06 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02

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TAGS: SNAR TU

SUBJ: NARCOTICS - UN/TURKEY DEVELOPMENTS

FOLLOWING IS PRESS RELEASE SOC/NAR/236 OF UNITED NATIONS RELEASED  
MORNING 12 JUNE 1975. TEXT AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE:

TURKISH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES SCALE OF PRICES AT WHICH IT WILL BUY  
FROM FARMERS THEIR HARVEST OF OPIUM POPPY CAPSULES.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY ANNOUNCED ON 10 JUNE 1975 THE PRICES AT  
WHICH IT WILL BUY FROM LICENSED OPIUM POPPY FARMERS THEIR 1975  
HARVEST OF UNLANCED POPPY CAPSULES. THE RANGE OF PRICES IS EX-  
PECTED TO RESULT IN AN AVERAGE PRICE TO FARMERS OVER THE WHOLE  
CROP OF TL 18 (TL 14 EQUALS US \$1) PER KG. OF CAPSULES.

"THE UNITED NATIONS CONSIDERS THAT IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO FIX  
AND ANNOUNCE IN ADVANCE OF THE PERIOD WHEN IT IS TECHNICALLY POS-  
SIBLE TO LANCE CAPSULES A BUYING PRICE WHICH WILL REASSURE THE  
TURKISH FARMER THAT HE WILL NOT LOSE FINANCIALLY BY THE CHANGE TO  
A NEW METHOD OF PRODUCING NARCOTICS RAW MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR  
MEDICINAL PURPOSES AND HELP TO INDUCE HIM TO BECOME A WILLING  
PARTNER IN THE CONTROL SYSTEM. THUS THE TEMPTATION TO EVASION IS  
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LESSENERED AND THE PROBLEM OF CONTROL FURTHER DIMINISHED. IN THE

OPINION OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL THE BUYING PRICE ANNOUNCED BY THE GOVERNMENT IS ADEQUATE FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION, AND ITS PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT, IS WELCOMED BY THE UNITED NATIONS.

"IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT GOVERNMENT DECREES HAVE MADE THE CULTIVATION OF THE OPIUM POPPY SUBJECT TO A LICENSING AND INSPECTION SYSTEM, WHEREBY THE LANCING OF POPPY CAPSULES AND SO THE PRODUCTION OF OPIUM IS NOT PERMITTED AND TO THE NOMINATION OF A GOVERNMENT AGENCY (THE SOIL PRODUCTS OFFICE) AS THE SOLE LEGAL BUYER AND DEALER IN POPPY CAPSULES. THE UNLANCED CAPSULES WILL BE EXPORTED FOR PROCESSING ABROAD UNTIL AN ALKALOIDS FACTORY CAN BE BUILT FOR THEIR PROCESSING IN TURKEY. THE FARMERS WILL BE PERMITTED TO RETAIN THE PLANTS' SEED (WHICH DOES NOT CONTAIN MORPHINE) AND STALK. THESE DECISIONS SHOULD RESULT IN THE PRODUCTION OF NARCOTICS RAW MATERIALS BY A SAFER WAY, AND SO MAKE THE TASK OF THE CONTROL AUTHORITIES SIMPLER AND LESS DIFFICULT AND VERY GREATLY REDUCE THE RISK OF ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN OPIUM, MORPHINE, OR HEROIN FROM TURKEY. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS REITERATED THE DETERMINATION EXPRESSED BY THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER LAST JULY 'TO ADOPT THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THIS DECISION (TO RESUME POPPY CULTIVATION) WILL NOT CAUSE EVEN THE SMALLEST HARM TO HUMANKIND'.

"SINCE INEVITABLY THERE ARE DOUBTS ABOUT THE FINANCIAL OUTCOME OF THIS NEW PROCESS IN ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION, THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL HAS AGREED TO ESTABLISH A STAND-BY CONTINGENCY FUND WITH A STIPULATED MAXIMUM LIABILITY WHICH WILL, IF NEED BE, BE USED TO SUPPORT THE BUYING PRICE. IT BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO EXPORT THE WHOLE OF THE HARVEST OF POPPY CAPSULES AT LITTLE OR NO NET LOSS. IN FUTURE YEARS, THE USE OF IMPROVED SEED AND FARMING METHODS BETTER ADAPTED TO THE PRODUCTION OF CAPSULES SHOULD PERMIT GREATER RETURNS TO THE FARMER. THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY AND THE UNITED NATIONS ARE DISCUSSING MEANS TO CONDUCT AND APPLY THE NECESSARY RESEARCH FOR THIS PURPOSE.

"IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO SAFEGUARD FARMERS AGAINST LOSS OF INCOME FOR A FURTHER PERIOD AFTER THE 1974-75 HARVEST UNTIL AN ALKALOIDS FACTORY HAS BEEN BUILT. SHOULD SUCH A NEED ARISE THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL WOULD BE PREPARED IF REQUESTED TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE SUPPORT FOR A GUARANTEED PRICE TO POPPY FARMERS FOR CAPSULES FOR EACH OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE CROP YEARS 1975-76 AND 1976-77.

"THE UNITED NATIONS IS ALSO PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN ORDER FURTHER TO STRENGTHEN THE CONTROL SYSTEM ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY. THIS INCLUDES THE HOLDING OF SPECIAL TRAINING COURSES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, THE ARRANGEMENT OF STUDY TOURS OF ALKALOID FACTORIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES, THE GRANT OF FELLOWSHIPS FOR ADVANCED TECHNICAL STUDY, AND THE PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE SMOOTHER AND FASTER OPERATION OF REQUIRED CON-

TROL MEASURES. THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY  
LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING CLOSE CO-OPERATION.

"THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL REGARDS ITS  
ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY AS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBU-  
TION TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL  
SYSTEM DESIGNED TO LIMIT PRODUCTION AND TRADE TO MEDICAL AND  
SCIENTIFIC REQUIREMENTS. ITS OBJECTIVE IN TURKEY IS TO ASSIST  
THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT ITS DECISION TO TURN FROM THE  
PRODUCTION OF OPIUM FOR EXPORT TO THE MANUFACTURE WITHIN TURKEY  
OF OPIUM ALKALOIDS FROM POPPY STRAW. THIS TRANSITION WILL PRO-  
BABLY REQUIRE ABOUT TWO OR THREE YEARS. IN CONFORMITY WITH ITS  
OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONVENTION, TURKEY  
PROPOSES TO HAVE A VIABLE, SELF-CONTAINED AND EFFECTIVELY-CONTROL-  
LED SYSTEM FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NARCOTICS FOR MEDICINAL REQUIRE-  
MENTS. END QUOTEDALE

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